

Art Center Update

December 2020

President's Message



Hello Fabulous Art Folk!

The new year is upon us and I think we are all more than happy to put 2020 in the rear mirror. I hope

everyone had a marvelous holiday and celebrated to their hearts content. We are moving TAC forward and devising plans to lift the organization and its artist members. We are looking for opportunities to have additional locations for art display and furthering our relationship with other peer organizations.

We have big plans for our new studio location and will have exhibition space incorporated into the site.

The location is slated to be on Jacksonville's Emerald Trail, a 30-mile network of bicycle and pedestrian

paths that will connect downtown to 14 historic neighborhoods, 18 schools, two colleges and nearly 30

parks. The Armory downtown is to be converted to additional artist space. The armory is a stones throw from TAC II and the new studios.

This means we are in prime position to become part of a new and growing art district in downtown Jacksonville. Once COVID-19 becomes a memory we will be able to

host open house functions at this location and display all that is TAC. Thank you for hanging in there through this year of challenges. I hope we can all come out the other side as a more unified and supportive group that impacts the Jacksonville art scene and overall community in the most positive way.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lofton

Interim President

Opportunities

A number of our members have had a chance to display their work at the **Jacksonville International Airport**. They have the Haskell Gallery there, but they also have other display venues. If you are interested, here is a [link](#) to more information about applied.

Word Revolt in Jacksonville Beach is hosting an Arts & Technology show on January 25th. Submissions are due by January 10th. Here's a [link](#) to more info.

The Cultural Council has created a directory for artists and art organizations. The Art Center joined up right away, but you can also get included as an individual artist. A basic listing is free and an enhanced listing is \$35. You can find out more [here](#).

You can also check out what's happening around town at the

Cultural Council Events Calendar [here](#).

The **Jacksonville Art Guild** has partnered with The Jewish Community Alliance to produce a show called “Sunshine in the South”. The show will start June 3, but submissions are due by May 25th. Here is a [link](#) to more info.

JAG will also be hosting a presentation by well known local sculptor **Enzo Torcoletti** on January 11. Enzo is a great guy and has done some beautiful work. Here is a [link](#) to more info and to register for the talk.

Lisa Lofton has put her workshop about **How to Photograph and Edit your Artwork Using Your Smartphone** on our website. Here’s a [link](#) to the download.

As we mentioned last month nearly half of our members got into the **Cultural Council’s ARTSee&Shop**. Hines International, who offered the space was so impressed that they want the pop-up gallery to continue for some time. As of now the ARTSee&Shop will reopen on January 7th and be in operation until March. Funding for staff wasn’t extended however, so they have had to change the hours of operation. They’ll be open Thursday – Sunday each week and will open by appointment on Monday – Wednesday. Here’s some more [info](#).

Sales

November sales were \$238.

Cyndy Reynolds	\$ 50.00
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Cyndy Reynolds	\$ 39.00
Cyndy Reynolds	\$ 39.00

Denise Sawyer-Johnson	\$ 50.00
Velentina Nedelcheva	\$ 10.00

Cyndy has been on a roll the last month or two.

Shows

Don’t forget that take in for the **Unity and Equality Art Exhibition** starts Monday, January 4.

The show runs Jan 11– Feb 27
Jacques-Louis David painted during the French Revolution and is the most political painter in history. In today’s society we are looking at a fight for unity and for equality.

These are concepts that reach out to include social status, opportunity, treatment, and achievement – regardless of race or gender. This exhibition promises to lead to some immensely powerful images.

Reception:

Saturday, Jan16th, 4pm – 6pm

TAC and the Community

KeShauna Davis, UNF student was finally able to hang her senior show – “My Body, Your Choices, Dissecting Personal Agency and True Color”. It will run until January 3. The pandemic made it very difficult this year. She chose not to have a reception and neither of her teachers were able to attend due to the virus. Hopefully future student shows can be a way to help kick off a student’s art career.

Although we had planned to start some workshops in January, it’s clear that we’ll not be able to do much until the vaccine has been widely administered and people feel more comfortable going out again. However, we are working on a

workshop with **Keith Doles** to teach acrylic painting. We'll keep you aware of developments.

TAC II and Jax Artist Studios

It seems that the **Jax Artist Studios** are a real hit. We can't build them fast enough. Our initial plan had to be modified a number of times to accommodate the needs of potential renters. BTW, we're getting some well known local artists to get studios here. Well known painter and muralist [Christopher Clark](#) and power art couple **Shawana Brooks and Roosevelt Watson III**, who became national celebrities with their [6ft Away Gallery](#) early on in the pandemic

Newest Board member Mabs ([Mary Beth Blevins](#)). Has also joined our talented studio artist group.

Phases 1 and 2 are completed creating six spaces and are all rented and we're still getting inquiries. We hired former studio renter and member **Steve Miller** to do the electrical expansion to add power and lighting to the new units.

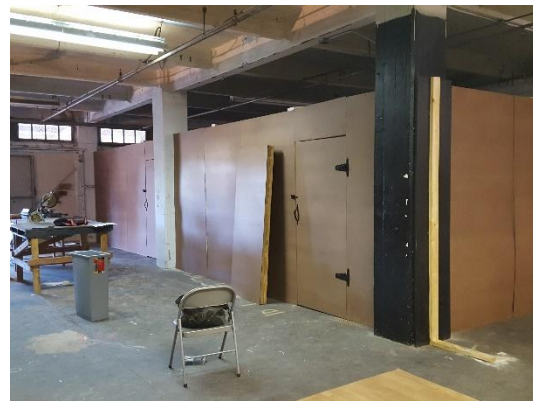
Phase 3 has also been designed, but we want to recover a bit from the funds outlay for the building materials before we start on that.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Lisa and Scott Lofton** who have done the bulk of the buildout of the new studio space. They have developed a good process for building the units and although it is a lot of work, can go up pretty smoothly. **Susan and Doug Smith, Marsha Hatcher, Annelies**

Dykgraaf and Ed Malesky have all been involved. After the buildout of Phase 3 we need to renovate some of the other areas to prep for workshops and Figure Drawing session. We'll probably send out another call for help.

Annelise Dykgraaf has been a wonderful resource handling all the rentals, showing of the studios and getting people signed up. She has also rented two of the three empty spaces in TAC II.

Here's what they're beginning to look like.



Members

New Board Members

We're very happy to announce that **Susan Smith and Mary Beth (Mabs) Blevins** have joined the Board and participated in their first virtual Board Meeting. We're very happy to have them on board.

February is when we do our change over and **Ed Malesky** will roll off the Board. Our next Members Meeting will also be in February and it's at this meeting where you vote on our new Officers

We're sad about two of our long time members will be leaving at the end of the year. **Lora Davis-Henningson** has been traveling a lot and has not been able to be as engaged as she has in the past. **Michael Cenci** will also be leaving us. Michael is starting to promote his work independently on a new website. We wish them the best of luck.

Sean Lofton has become our first on-line member. Because he is not living here right now, the ability for him to display and sell his work online fit his needs exactly.



Here's a [link](#) to Sean's website.

Here's some more info about Sean:

Sean Lofton Biography

Sean Lofton is a ceramic artist from Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

He received his BFA in ceramics from the University of North Florida. He is currently living in Columbia, MO where he is pursuing his MFA at the University of Missouri. He has worked within the

clay industry in several ways throughout his career including: studio technician, adjunct ceramics teacher, kiln repair technician, and ceramic retail manager.

Sean's ceramic practice has made a diametric shift away from the utilitarian pot to the sculptural vessel. This sculptural work serves to challenge many of the prescriptions that he had learned in the making of pottery. His current work explores the creative possibilities that emerge when utility, and its methods of creation, are left at the periphery of his practice. This has led him use the formal language of pottery as a vernacular for abstraction. He is attempting to convert the innocuous utilitarian clay vessel into an arresting sculptural object.

Sean's work usurps and recontextualizes the conventions that usually give the pot its comfortability. In doing so he wishes to create a sense of tension; through the use of material, form, and surface. He has focused particularly on the physical properties that exists in clay. This focus has led to objects that exist on the cusp of material failure, in order to better understand and appreciate his medium. In addition to recontextualizing the utilitarian characteristics of clay; A focus on mixed media has emerged in the sculptures. I am looking for ways to use other materials of construction in conjunction with the ceramic sculptural work so that all materials are elevated through their interaction and contrasting natures.

We had two other members join early this year and finally remembered to take pictures.

First up, **Harriet Wilson**



After raising a large family and retiring from the Miami-Dade School System Harriet joined the Miami Art League. She continued taking lessons when she could find them and worked in oils. Her work has been displayed in Karen Ledbetter Galleries and later International Galleries in Oakland Park, FL.

Harriet moved to Jacksonville in 2014 and joined the Jacksonville Art League. She is currently taking acrylic and watercolor classes and paints anything that inspires her which takes in a wide range of subjects.

Harriet recently painted an oil study of the Masters, which was given to the Father of her Church. He based a sermon around that painting after she started attending last year. Several of her paintings are shown in the Fellowship Hall after services, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 5201 Atlantic Boulevard.

Here's a [link](#) to her online gallery. Check out the beautiful work she does.

Next up is **Dana Delarme**.



Dana really loves to paint animals. Check out her work [here](#).

Grants and Finances

Lisa and Ed participated in the mandatory grant training earlier this month. No new modifications since last year, but the process is complex enough that getting a two hour refresher course each December is beneficial. One thing we learned is that the City is behind in distributing the grant funds and they will miss the first quarter. However, we'll now get one distribution in January and another one in February.

Ed also participated in the Grant Committee and Grantee mixer this month. This is a great opportunity to meet members of the grant committee where they can get to know more about us. It gave us a great opportunity to let them know about our program to help the local art teachers.

The Cultural Council is also renewing it's commitments to holding regular online meetings of the grantees. It was pretty clear from the December meeting that many of the grantees, especially those that rely on performances and attendance for

their revenue are really hurting. The City has come up with another round of stimulus money which is sorely needed.

Looking back at our finances through eleven months, we're financially healthy. Although we were negative last month, it was due to the expenses for the studio buildout. With all the studios now rented we will recover quickly. All this was without the grant distribution, so we will be in good shape next month.